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realized that the imperial policy, the organs of colonial administration and the institutional and organic connection between the various parts of the empire, must be taken into consideration before we can hope adequately to understand the history of the period.

HERMAN V. AMES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Lectures on the Fourteenth Article of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. By WILLIAM D. GUTHRIE. Pp. xxviii, 265. Price, \$2.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1898.

The most interesting constitutional questions which now come before the United States Supreme Court are those connected with the interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment. No term passes in which the court is not called upon to construe the sweeping phrases in which the statesmen of the Reconstruction Period attempted to embody the results of the Civil War. At a single term (October Term, 1896), the Amendment was discussed in twenty-one cases, fifteen of which turned upon its interpretation. At the following term a most important decision was made. The opening clause defining citizenship was applied to the case of a child born in the United States of Chinese parents, and the child was held to be a citizen even though his parents cannot be naturalized. (United States *v.* Wong Kim Ark, 169 U. S. 649.) The other parts of the Amendment, particularly those relating to due process of law and the equal protection of the laws, are less capable of definitive interpretation and may be expected to occupy the attention of the court for a long time to come.

It is altogether too early to expect any elaborate and well-rounded treatise upon this the newest branch of our constitutional law. The decisions are numerous and many of them conflicting. But in the meantime discussions of decisions rendered and of the principles underlying them will form an important part of our legal literature.

Such a work is Mr. Guthrie's volume. It is made up of lectures which were delivered before the Dwight Alumni Association of New York. The lectures are five in number. The first relates to the history of the Amendment, and in refutation of the views as to its scope set forth by Mr. Justice Miller in the Slaughter House Cases, extracts from the debates in Congress upon the adoption of the Amendment are given. A considerable part of the chapter is devoted to a eulogy of our judicial system which has no apparent bearing upon the subject under discussion. The second lecture is entitled

"The Principles of Construction and Interpretation," and consists of a series of discursive observations which, while unobjectionable in themselves, fall far short of what their title leads us to expect. About half the chapter is devoted to a summary of cases in which the court has interpreted the Amendment.

In the third lecture, which treats of "due process of law," and in the fourth lecture, which is on "the equal protection of the laws," we find the most valuable parts of the book. In the former some of the leading cases are grouped together and reviewed under the heads of the police power, the power of eminent domain, the power of taxation, and civil and criminal procedure. A considerable portion of the fourth lecture is devoted to a discussion of the political aspects of progressive taxation especially as applied to inheritances. In Mr. Guthrie's judgment the attempt to apply this principle is but a step toward socialism.

The fifth and final lecture deals with the rules of practice of the federal courts. Emphasis is laid upon one much-needed amendment of the law regulating appeals. As the law now stands, an appeal can be taken from the decision of a State court in a case involving the constitutionality of a federal law only when the decision is adverse to the law. It has frequently happened that statutes upheld by the State courts have later been declared unconstitutional by the federal supreme court. Thus uniformity of interpretation is defeated. The matter could be remedied by giving the State the right to appeal.

An ample table of cases, a well annotated copy of the Constitution, and an analytical index add greatly to the value of the volume. The circumstances under which the lectures were prepared are perhaps a sufficient excuse for their numerous shortcomings in the selection of matter and the form of its arrangement. The author promises a more elaborate work on the same subject.

CARL EVANS BOYD.

Chicago.

The Financial History of Baltimore. By J. H. HOLLANDER, Ph. D.
Pp. xvi, 397. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1899.

Professor Hollander's work might almost have been called the Municipal History of Baltimore. It includes not only a very complete treatment of municipal functions, which necessarily forms a part of any satisfactory work on municipal finance, but also some consideration of the